CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of monitoring passengers during boarding or disembarking from a passenger carrier, the method comprising:

providing a passenger monitoring system at a gateway area for boarding or disembarking of a passenger carrier for a designated carrier event, the passenger monitoring system including a passenger data collecting device, an instruction input device, a video monitor display device and a data processor that is in communication with a remotely located central database containing stored carrier and passenger data for the carrier event;

collecting passenger boarding or disembarking data from at least one passenger during boarding or disembarking operations at the gateway area with the passenger monitoring system;

updating the stored carrier and passenger data with the collected data; and

displaying stored carrier and passenger data on the display device of the passenger monitoring system upon inquiry instruction input into the instruction input device.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

comparing the collected passenger data to the stored carrier and passenger data and providing a comparison result on the display device that includes an indication of at least one of a validation status, a non-validation status, and a prompt to check for passenger information for the at least one passenger, and further includes displaying

at least a passenger identifier for the at least one passenger and a total number of passengers having a validated status for the carrier event on the display device.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein:

displaying stored carrier and passenger data includes providing a display menu on the display device with a plurality of monitoring options for selection as inquiry instruction input for display of information relating to at least one of the boarding, disembarking and transitional passenger information.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

displaying stored carrier and passenger data includes displaying status information on the display device for all passengers associated with the carrier event.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein:

displaying stored carrier and passenger data includes displaying passenger information that includes a passenger identifier for each passenger and boarded or non-boarded status for each passenger associated with the carrier event.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein:

the passenger information further includes at least one of the final destination of each passenger, baggage information associated with each passenger, boarding pass identifier, and any transitional passenger information.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein:

transitional passenger information includes connecting and continuing passenger information.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein:

connecting passenger information includes at least one of the total number of connecting passengers for the designated carrier event, identification of the connecting passengers, identification of connecting passengers' incoming carrier events, scheduled time of arrival of the connecting passengers' incoming carrier events, origin of the incoming carrier events and status of the incoming carrier event.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein:

collecting passenger boarding or disembarking data from at least one passenger at the gateway area with the passenger monitoring system includes collecting disembarking data with the monitoring system from at least one de-boarding passenger having pre-existing boarded status data associated therewith stored in the central data base.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the passenger monitoring system includes a passenger-data item reader; and

collecting passenger boarding and disembarking data includes receiving a data signal from a passenger-data item associated with a passenger when the item is brought within a proximal distance to the reader.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein:

displaying stored carrier and passenger data includes displaying non-boarded passenger information for the designated carrier event, the non-boarded passenger information including at least one of identification of non-boarded passengers, non-

boarded passenger boarding pass information, baggage information associated with each non-boarded passenger and final destination of each non-boarded passenger.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein:

the non-boarded passenger information includes baggage information associated with each non-boarded passenger; and further comprising

communicating the non-boarded passenger baggage information from the passenger monitoring system to a baggage handler associated with the designated carrier event to facilitate separation of such baggage from the passenger carrier.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein:

displaying the stored carrier and passenger data includes displaying standby passenger information for the designated carrier event, the standby passenger information including at least one of identification of standby passengers, standby passenger boarding pass information, baggage information associated with each standby passenger and final destination of each standby passenger.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein:

the standby passenger information includes baggage information associated with each boarded standby passenger; and further comprising

communicating the baggage information of each boarded standby passenger baggage from the passenger monitoring system to a baggage handler associated with the designated carrier event to facilitate loading of such baggage on the passenger carrier.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the passenger monitoring system includes a printer for printing baggage information on a baggage tag.

16. A passenger monitoring system for monitoring passengers during boarding or disembarking from a passenger carrier, the monitoring system comprising:

a passenger monitoring terminal located at a gateway area that includes a data collecting device that includes a passenger-data item reader capable of receiving a data signal from a passenger-data item associated with a passenger when the passenger-data item is brought within a proximal distance to the reader, an instruction input device, a video monitor display device and a data processor; and

a remotely located central database containing stored carrier and passenger data, the central database providing stored carrier and passenger data associated with individual carrier events to the passenger monitoring terminal from the central database upon inquiry input with the instruction input device; and wherein

the passenger monitoring terminal collects passenger boarding or disembarking data from at least one passenger at the gateway area for updating the stored carrier and passenger data the stored carrier and passenger data is displayed on the display device of the passenger monitoring system upon inquiry instruction input into the instruction input device.

17. A method of monitoring passengers during boarding or disembarking from a passenger carrier, the method comprising:

providing a passenger monitoring system at a gateway area for boarding or disembarking of a passenger carrier for a designated carrier event, the passenger monitoring system including a passenger data collecting device, an instruction input device, a video monitor display device and a data processor that is in communication with a remotely located central database containing stored carrier and passenger data for the carrier event;

collecting passenger boarding or disembarking data from at least one passenger at the gateway area with the passenger monitoring system;

comparing the collected passenger data to the stored carrier and passenger data for the carrier event; and

providing a comparison result on the display device of the passenger monitoring system based upon the compared collected and stored data, the comparison result including an indication of at least one of a validation status, a non-validation status, and a prompt to check for passenger information for the at least one passenger, and further including displaying at least a passenger identifier for the at least one passenger and a total number of passengers having a validated status for the carrier event on the display device.

18. A method of monitoring passengers during boarding or disembarking from a passenger carrier, the method comprising:

providing a passenger monitoring system at a gateway area for boarding or disembarking of a passenger carrier for a designated carrier event, the passenger monitoring system including a passenger data collecting device, an instruction input device, a display device and a data processor that is in communication with a remotely located central database containing stored carrier and passenger data for the carrier event;

collecting passenger boarding or disembarking data from at least one passenger at the gateway area with the passenger monitoring system;

comparing the collected passenger data to the stored carrier and passenger data for the carrier event;

providing a comparison result on the display device of the passenger monitoring system based upon the compared collected and stored data;

transmitting status indication feedback data from the monitoring system to the central data base in response to the comparison result; and

updating the stored carrier and passenger data of the central database with the status indication feedback data.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein:

comparing the collected passenger data, providing a comparison result, transmitting status indication feedback data, and updating the stored carrier and passenger data of the central database occur immediately upon collecting passenger boarding or disembarking data.